

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111
Serial No. 09/400,833
Attorney Docket No. 991059

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 19-24 and 31-35 are pending in this application, of which claim 20 and 21 have been amended. Claim 25-30 have been cancelled. Claims 32-35 have been added.

(1) Claims 2, 3, 20-22 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Raimondi (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,572 B1).

(i) Claims 20 and 21 have been amended, whose bases is found at page 7, lines 1-13. and page 15, line 15 to page 16, line 22, particularly describing that the workpiece-machining device 1 comprises a table 5 on which the workpiece W is placed (page 7, lines 10-13), and that the traveling body 27 or suction-pad arrangement 36 grips the material workpiece W1 in a predetermined loading position on the table 5 of the workpiece-machining device 1 (page 16, lines 9-14).

(ii) First of all, although the previous amendment filed on April 18, 2005 had incorporated that the limitations that the workpiece-machining device comprises a machining section and a workpiece-feeding device for feeding a material workpiece to the machining section, the Examiner does not mention about the limitations in the Office Action dated July 7, 2005. In the invention of Raimondi, the positioning device 7, which can move in the two directions 19, 20, transfers the sheet metal from the store 20 through the work station 6 to the store 22. On the other hand, the

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present invention calls for the workpiece-feeding device in addition to the workpiece-transfer device. The arrangement of the present invention can reduce the time required for the machining and transferring, as stated in the previous remarks. Thus, invention of claims 20 and 21 are not anticipated by Raimondi. Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider in this respect.

(iii) Also, claims 20 and 21 have been amended as explained above, in order to make clear the functions of the workpiece-transfer device and the workpiece-feeding device. According to the structures of the present invention, the workpiece-transfer device including the traveling body 27 can work among the material-housing section 22, product-housing section 21 and the table 5 of the workpiece-machining device 1, and the workpiece-feeding device 7 can work between the table 5 and the machining section 6. Thus, without waiting for the machining process at the machining section 6, the transferring of the workpieces can be performed. Also, in some cases, without waiting for the transferring of the workpieces, the machine section can continuously work.

On the other hand, the invention of Raimondi is only provided with one transferring means, that is, the positioning device 7, so that the positioning device 7 has to wait for the machining process.

(iv) In addition, as incorporated in claims 20 and 21, the workpiece-machining device of the present invention also calls for the table 5 for relaying the workpieces. Raimondi discloses

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worktable 4, but which is not disclosed to serve as relaying the sheet metal.

(v) Furthermore, the present invention of claims 20 and 21 calls for the workpiece-storage device separately provided with the workpiece-machining device. Such features are recited in added claims 32-35 more clearly. The basis of claims 32 and 33 is found at page 7, lines 2-9, and Figs. 3 and 4. Since the workpiece-storage device is separately provided at the side of the workpiece-machining device, the amount to store the workpieces at the workpiece-storage device can be increased.

On the other hand, the sections 25, 28 to store the metal sheets of Raimondi are not separated from the work section 6. The metal sheets of Raimondi are stored under the worktable 4, where the work section 6 is there. In addition, the sections 25, 28 to store the metal sheets of Raimondi are located not at the side of the work station 6 but under the work station 6. Therefore, the metal sheets which can be stored under the worktable 4 are limited in the invention of Raimondi.

(2) Claims 19 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raimondi (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,572 B1) in view of Makeev et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,830,121).

As mentioned above, Ramondi is different from the present invention. Thus, even the

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combination of the references does not make the present invention.

Also, as to claim 24, Makeev's skeleton-housing section cannot be incorporated into the teaching of Raimondi in the second horizontal direction, because there is no room in Raimondi to add Makeev' skeleton-housing section into the direction 20 of Raimondi. The specification at page 9, lines 12-14 and Fig. 1 shows that the skeleton-housing section is arranged in the direction of Y axis, that is, the second horizontal direction of the claims.

(3) Claims 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Raimondi (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,572 B1) in view of Makeev et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,830,121).

Claims 25-30 have been cancelled.

(4) In view of the above, claims 2, 3, 19-24 and 31-33, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

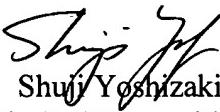
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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